

EDTC 6300 Distance Learning Research Paper Reflective Statement

The Project

For EDTC 6300, we were tasked with choosing one of three possible final projects. I chose to complete a distance learning research paper about a specific topic that I feel is the biggest threat to distance education. There are various stigmas that surround distance learning. I chose to write a distance learning research paper about those stigmas and how they have changed over the years. The paper had to consist of around ten pages of content.

Project Development

I chose this topic after attending a retreat at work. One of the questions asked during a "gallery walk" exercise was what we thought the greatest threat to online learning was. I wrote "stigma" and many people passionately agreed. I knew that was the perfect topic for this type of paper. It did prove difficult to find a lot of information on stigma. So, what I ultimately did was discussed the various stigmas that threaten distance education such as certain distance learning only universities being viewed as "diploma mills", the opinion of employers that real learning can only take place in a classroom, and the idea that online programs are lower quality than traditional learning. I incorporated some history of distance learning and the advancement of technology to show how the stigmas have changed over the years.

Professional Goals and Objectives

I currently work for a virtual school. The survival of my institution relies on the acceptance of distance learning. Our courses are developed exceptionally well and often receive high praise from other schools' administration, teachers, students and parents. Proving to the world that people, even middle school students, can learn online if the instruction is developed in such a way to engage and promote critical thinking is an essential task of my organization.

Taking what I have learned in this class, I will work every day to assist, edit, document, and improve processes and even content in some areas for our classes. Mainly, I will look for ways to best incorporate technology with content in order to reach all learners successfully and provide positive outcomes.